

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims are not amended. They are presented here for the Examiner's convenience:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A process for the treatment of sludge comprising: concomitantly phosphatizing and foaming the sludge by adding phosphoric acid thereto and foaming under controlled conditions to form phosphated and foamed sludge; having a density of 50% to less than 90% of that of the sludge prior to treatment; and drying the phosphated and foamed sludge.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the density of the foam is less than 85% of that of the phosphated sludge.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the density of the foam is between 55 and 65% of that of the phosphated sludge.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, comprising a phosphatizing the sludge by adding thereto from at least 1% to less than 15% by weight phosphoric acid relative to the dry matter content of the sludge to form the phosphated sludge.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the foam is dried on the ground at ambient temperature.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said foam is dried for at least 12 days, and after 12 days of drying, the dried sludge reaches a dry matter content exceeding 65%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out in a composting tunnel comprising a sand layer placed on a membrane impermeable to water.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the dried phosphated and foamed sludge is then calcined.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 8, wherein the calcining temperature is between 550 and 750°C.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 8, wherein a product is obtained from the calcining that is then mixed with water and is then subjected to setting and hardening.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, comprising phosphatizing the sludge by adding thereto from 2% to 6% by weight phosphoric acid relative to the dry matter content of the sludge.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sludge has a dry matter content of less than 70% - more than 30%.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sludge has a dry matter content of less than 70% - more than 40%.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the foam is dried at ambient temperature for from 2 to 7 days.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the foam is dried at ambient temperature for from 4 to 6 days.